

the DISK

the box icon (see diagram for details) and draw a box anywhere on the page. We started in cursor mode, which is used for most things including creating boxes, but if we now want to input some text we'll have to change to text input by clicking on the gadget with a large capital "T" in it.

Do so now and type a word or two into the box. If you don't like

the font we're using, just click on the top right gadget (paragraph mode) then on the box whose contents you want to change.

Now select Alter Current from the Type Style menu. Various options, including changing the font and its typography settings are available, but these are covered in the tutorial, so leave everything as it is.

See how the mode we are in affects what actions we can carry out? If we hadn't clicked on the paragraph gadget the Type Style menu would not have been available. Above all, when using The Publisher you must keep track of which mode you are working in or you may become confused as to why some options aren't working.

Again, another important aspect of the program is the list approach used of all imported text and graphics and for a document's style tags. The list can be seen below the page view area and will be

blank to start with.

When a file is imported for use in a document it isn't pasted straight into the currently active box but stored in the list until it is needed. This approach means, among other benefits, that if a logo is to be used in several places it only has to be loaded once, but bear the list in mind when importing text or graphics in case you're wondering where the image or text file has gone.

Placing an imported file in a box is a simple matter of ensuring that the target box is selected, then clicking on the list entry.

Keep these simple rules in mind and follow the detailed tutorial on creating a flyer and you should find The Publisher a useful and productive tool.

Full details on the cut price manual offer can also be found in this issue for those who wish to delve deeper into this complex package's innermost secrets.

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telling the Amiga which files we always want to back up.

For example, DH1 might contain mostly commercial programs for which we have the original disks, in which case we already have a backup, so there's no need to include these.

We might simply want to ensure that, say, the directories containing business letters, PageSetter layouts, and images generated in DPaint or a rendering package are selected for backup, and filters can be written to instruct MRBackup of this. All instructions on the format of filters can be accessed from this screen by pressing the help key again.

Let's go back to the main screen again and click on Backup. From here we can start a backup using the home path set in the main screen and any filters we have constructed, so skip back to the main screen, set the homepath as SYS:Prefs, then return to the backup screen and click on Ok.

Your Prefs drawer will be scanned for all files (unless a filter was set) and a new screen will appear showing the drawer in a window to the left. On the right, a number of options are available to select or deselect files, and two string gadgets can be used to tell the program which files to include or exclude using standard AmigaDOS wildcards.

Directory contents

Double click on the Prefs drawer as listed in the window and MRBackup will display the directory contents, all of which are selected at the moment. To deselect individual files or sub-directories, just click on the file name. To select or deselect a range of similar files, use the string gadgets.

For example, you could deselect all icon files by entering the string "*.info" in the exclude pattern string. Once happy that you have selected the appropriate files, three information boxes below the option gadgets will inform you how many entries there are, how many have been selected, and how many disks will be required to complete the backup, which in this case should be just one disk.

Now click on OK and you should be prompted to insert the first backup disk in a drive. Do so now and the program should make a copy of the Prefs drawer fairly quickly. Remember that you should have used the Options screen to set verify to on.

Once the backup is complete you will be asked to remove the backup disk, then prompted to save the backup catalogue to d0:. Confirm that you wish to do this and either save the catalogue to the MRBackup disk or choose a spare floppy to store all your catalogues.

These catalogues are important in that they record the status of all files saved to disk during the backup and are used by MRBackup when restoring the data, so make sure you save the catalogue where you can find it again.

It would also be a good idea to give the catalogue file a more descriptive name such as Prefs25Jan1994 to save guesswork at a later date.

Catalogues are only needed when the user wants to select files from a backup rather than spurge the whole lot back onto hard drive, but it's a good idea to save one

out just in case.

If you don't bother or can't remember where the catalogue was saved, use the rebuild catalogue option from the main screen's Operations menu. This could take some time, but is better than restoring 20Mb of data just to retrieve one file.

To complete our test run, we can restore the data to hard drive, but this is not recommended unless forced on the user by a catastrophe such as a read/write error.

The first rule of hard drive use is that if it works, don't mess with it, so we'll restore the data to a safe place such as RAM: (if you have a spare 1Mb or so) or another drawer on the hard drive.

Back on the main screen, set the Home Path to RAM: or a safe directory such as SYS:Storage, then go to the Restore screen by clicking the appropriate button on the main screen and click on OK.

A requester should appear to tell you that a catalogue is only necessary if you want a partial restore (selecting only certain files to retrieve). As we are restoring the complete Prefs drawer, just click on Ignore Catalogue.

You will be prompted to insert the backup disk and the program will read the disk and save its backed-up files in the directory chosen using Home Path.

Once the restore is complete you can check for yourself and a copy of your Prefs drawer should be sitting there gaily waving and smiling, safe in the knowledge that he's been cloned.

That is the essence of MRBackup, and by following the above rules, making sure you set the correct paths and use verify, you should be able to ensure that your precious data is protected from future mishaps.

Use the on-line help for more detailed information on the program's features or, better still, contact MR Software and order a manual. The details can be found in the shareware doc you'll find on the de-archived disk.

